

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LA PAZ 10269 281531Z

ACTION MMO-02

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 SS-15 SP-02 PER-01 ABF-01

/032 W

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R 281435Z DEC 77

FM AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8699

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AODE, BL

SUBJECT: EVALUATION OF PERSONNEL LEVELS BY COM

REF: STATE 201122

1. I REGRET DELAY IN RESPONSE TO REFTEL, BUT I WANTED TO GAIN FULL KNOWLEDGE OF MISSION OPERATIONS AND PERSONNEL BEFORE MAKING REQUESTED EVALUATIONS. I HAVE NOW REVIEWED PERSONNEL LEVELS THROUGHOUT THE MISSION, PRESENTLY AUTHORIZED 102 POSITIONS. (A DECISION IS STILL PENDING IN WASHINGTON AS TO THE ADDITION OF ANOTHER CONSULAR OFFICER WHICH, IF APPROVED, WOULD MAKE 103.) BY AGENCY, EMBASSY'S PRESENT STRENGTH IS AS FOLLOWS:

STATE 32 (PLUS ONE TDY CONSULAR OFFICER)

USIS 5 (PLUS ONE PART-TIME SECRETARY)

USAID 35

USDAO 4

DEA 6

MILGP 17

IAGS 3

TOTAL 102

BY THE END OF FY 78, WITH REDUCTIONS IN USAID AND MILGP NOW

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PAGE 02 LA PAZ 10269 281531Z

BEING IMPLEMENTED, AND INCREASE IN STATE COMPLEMENT TO INCLUDE A NARCOTICS CONTROL UNIT (1 POSITION), EMBASSY STRENGTH IS FORESEEN AS FOLLOWS:

STATE 33

USIS 5 (PLUS PART-TIME SECRETARY)

USAID 29

USDAO 4

DEA	6
MILGP	6
IAGS	3
TOTAL	86

THIS WILL REPRESENT A REDUCTION OF US PERSONNEL TO 84 PERCENT OF ITS PRESENT STRENGTH, ASIDE FROM ANY OTHER REDUCTIONS WHICH MIGHT BE REQUIRED.

2. EXCLUDING USAID AND MILGP, ALREADY UNDERGOING DRASTIC REDUCTIONS, TOTAL US PERSONNEL ARE NOW 50. REDUCTION TO 85 PERCENT ON THIS BASIS WOULD MEAN A LOSS OF SEVEN POSITIONS AND TO 95 PERCENT A LOSS OF TWO POSITIONS.

3. I BELIEVE THAT PRESENT EMBASSY STAFF IS NOW ONLY ADEQUATE TO PERFORM THE TASKS WE ARE CALLED UPON TO DO. IN LIGHT OF PROSPECTS FOR RETURN TO CONSTITUTIONAL RULE, REGIONAL TENSIONS, A LARGE AND POSSIBLY GROWING AID PROGRAM, CONTINUING DRUG AND PRISONER PROBLEMS, BOLIVIA IS BECOMING MORE, RATHER THAN LESS, IMPORTANT TO US CONCERNS IN THE HEMISPHERE. AN ADDITIONAL FACTOR IS THAT THE GENERAL HEALTH AND MEDICAL PROBLEMS THAT CHARACTERIZE LA PAZ MEAN OUR EFFECTIVE PERSONNEL STRENGTH IS CONTINUALLY LESS THAN APPEARS ON PAPER. HOWEVER, IF THERE MUST BE A REDUCTION, FOLLOWING POSITIONS ARE THOSE WHICH MIGHT BE CONSIDERED FOR REDUCTION WITH THE LEAST ADVERSE EFFECTS ON LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 LA PAZ 10269 281531Z

US INTERESTS HERE.

A) SECRETARY-ADMINISTRATION SECTION, POSITION NO. 50/9280/100. EMBASSY HAS SOUGHT TO RETAIN THIS POSITION, CURRENTLY VACANT BUT STILL ON OUR STAFFING PATTERN, WITH THE UNDERSTANDING THAT WE WOULD GIVE UP THE PERSONNEL OFFICER POSITION NO. 54/2205/086 AT THE END OF THE INCUMBENT'S TOUR IN 1979.

B) DEA AGENTS. AS WE ACHIEVE OUR OBJECTIVE OF BUILDING UP THE INSTITUTIONAL AND INTERNAL TRAINING CAPACITY OF THE LOCAL DRUG AGENCY, SOME REDUCTION IN THE PRESENT COMPLEMENT OF FIVE DEA AGENTS SHOULD BE POSSIBLE. TIMING AND SIZE OF REDUCTION ARE HARD TO PREDICT NOW.

C) FOURTH CONSULAR OFFICER. EMBASSY HAS HAD AN URGENT REQUIREMENT DURING THE PAST SIX MONTHS FOR A FOURTH CONSULAR OFFICER AND WILL CONTINUE TO HAVE THIS REQUIREMENT UNTIL AT LEAST JUNE 1978. THIS NEED HAS BEEN MET SO FAR BY ASSIGNMENT OF A TDY CONSULAR OFFICER, BUT EMBASSY HAS URGED THAT DEPARTMENT PERMANENTLY ASSIGN A FOURTH CONSULAR OFFICER. IF DEPARTMENT CAN PROVIDE TDY CONSULAR OFFICER UNTIL THE END OF JUNE 1978, I BELIEVE WE CAN GET ALONG WITH THREE AFTER THAT, DUE TO EXPECTED REDUCTION OF TIME SPENT ON US PRISONER PROBLEMS AND SHIFTING OF PART OF THIS WORKLOAD ONTO LOCAL

EMPLOYEE; ASSUMING DEPARTMENT APPROVAL OF REQUESTED INCREASE
IN LOCAL POSITION AS PER LA PAZ 9391.

D) USIS TRAINEE. WE UNDERSTAND THAT HIS POSITION IS CHARGED TO
MISSION COMPLEMENT. WHILE THE SERVICES OF A TRAINEE ARE MOST
USEFUL TO USIS AND RECENT TRAINEES HAVE PROFITED FROM ASSIGNMENT
HERE, I BELIEVE THAT THE BENEFITS OF TRAINEE SERVICE ACCRUE
CHIEFLY TO AGENCY AS A WHOLE. IN CASE OF A REDUCTION, WE COULD
BE PREPARED TO GIVE UP THIS POSITION.

4. COMMENT: I HAVE CAREFULLY CONSIDERED AND REJECTED TWO OTHER
AREAS IN WHICH A REDUCTION MIGHT BE CONSIDERED FEASIBLE. IN
ADMINISTRATION, THE ASSISTANT GSO POSITION AND IN POL/ECON, EITHER
THE JUNIOR POLITICAL OR THE ECON/COMMERCIAL POSITIONS MIGHT, UNDER
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PAGE 04 LA PAZ 10269 281531Z

DIFFERENT CIRCUMSTANCES, BE CONSIDERED FOR REDUCTION. WITH
OUR EXTENSIVE FURNISHED HOUSING PROGRAM, HOWEVER, A US ASSISTANT
GSO IS ESSENTIAL FOR ADEQUATE INVENTORY AND MAINTENANCE CONTROLS.
COST OF CUTTING THIS POSITION IN TERMS OF POST MORALE COULD BE
VERY HIGH. AS TO THE POL/ECON POSITION, WE FORESEE A SUBSTANTIAL
GROWTH IN ANALYTICAL AND OTHER REPORTING REQUIREMENTS DURING
THE NEXT TEX MONTHS AS BOLIVIA REORGANIZES POLITICALLY AND
HOLDS ELECTIONS. IT WOULD BE POOR MANAGEMENT ON OUR PART TO
SUGGEST A REDUCTION IN POL/ECON. ON THE CONTRARY, WHEN AN
EXCEPTIONAL OFFICER NOW HEAD OF THE COMBINED POL/ECON SECTION
LEAVES THIS SUMMER, WE MAY HAVE TO SPLIT THE JOB IN TWO, ADDING
ONE POSITION, UNLESS AN EXCEPTIONALLY QUALIFIED OFFICER CAN
BE FOUND TO REPLACE THE INCUMBENT.
BOEKER

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